

IN THE CLAIMS

1-18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) A method, comprising:

providing an elastomeric tension element operable to elongate from a first length to a second length during use, the tension element having a first cross-sectional size associated with the first length and a second cross-sectional size associated with the second length, the second length being longer than the first length and the second cross-sectional size being less than the first cross-sectional size, the elastomeric tension element having a collar region at a first point therealong;

pre-stressing the collar region of the elastomeric tension element so that the collar region has a third cross-sectional size less than the second cross-sectional size;

providing a collar having receptacle therein to receive the collar region of the elastomeric tension element, the receptacle including a fourth cross-sectional size less than the second cross-sectional size of the elastomeric tension element; and

fixedly attaching a—the collar receptacle to the collar region.

20. (cancelled)

21. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the collar region is pre-stressed to an elongation of between 300% and 500%.

22. (original) The method of claim 19, further comprising connecting a hanger to the collar, wherein the hanger is connectable to a mount of a bouncing apparatus.

23. (original) The method of claim 19, wherein the collar includes a pair of collar portions, and fixedly attaching the collar includes mating the pair of collar portions together around the collar region.

24-34. (cancelled)

35. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the fourth cross-sectional size of the collar is at least as large as the third cross-sectional size of the pre-stressed collar region.

36. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the pair of collar portions are substantially identical.

37. (new) The method of claim 23, wherein the pair of collar portions have reciprocal mating features and fixedly attaching the collar includes securing the reciprocal mating features together.

38. (new) The method of claim 19, further comprising de-stressing the collar region upon attachment of the collar.

39. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the collar receptacle include a plurality of fingers and fixedly attaching the collar includes crimping the fingers about the collar region.

40. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the first point along the tension element is adjacent a first end of the tension element, and upon fixedly attaching the collar to the collar region the first end of the tension element has a fifth cross-

sectional size greater than the fourth cross-sectional size of the collar.

41. (new) The method of claim 19, wherein the fourth cross-sectional size is at least about 10% smaller than the second cross-sectional size.